

Scarborough Campus Students' Union Policy Manual

OPERATIONAL POLICY – Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS)

Date: November 24, 2021 – AGM

The Scarborough Campus Students' Union, at the mandate of its membership, will take the necessary steps to partake in the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equity. The movement is working to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law.

Preamble

The Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) recognizes the ongoing Israeli occupation and settler colonization of Palestinian land, which violently discriminates against Palestinians. For over seventy years, Israel has denied Palestinians fundamental rights and refuses to comply with international law. The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Palestinian-led movement for freedom and justice, inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, urges action to pressure Israel to comply with international laws.

The BDS movement is a global one, including unions, academic associations, religious spaces, and grassroots movements. As directed by the membership at-large, the SCSU first joined the BDS movement in 2013 through an Annual General Meeting and has since been an ongoing active supporter of BDS initiatives both on- and off-campus. The SCSU continues to reaffirm its commitment to fighting against settler colonialism, uniting with refugees and Indigenous people globally and locally, and simply doing what is possible to oppose ongoing apartheid.

We recognize that it is our role as students, young people, and members of the international community, to be in solidarity with Palestinian people in Palestine and the diaspora. Countries like so-called Canada and institutions such as the University of Toronto continue to support Israel, contributing to the oppression of Palestinian people. In line with our mandate, SCSU opposes all forms of discrimination, violence, colonization, and apartheid and fights for collective liberation. We acknowledge that this policy takes steps to address just one aspect of the fight for justice and equity.

Policy

The Scarborough Campus Students' Union will:

- Reaffirm its commitment to the BDS movement by committing to actively support initiatives that raise awareness about Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine and war crimes against Palestinian peoples;
- Refrain from engaging with organizations, services, or participating in events that further normalize Israeli apartheid in ways including, but not limited to:

- Inviting speakers who are representing the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), or support the military occupation of Palestine, the displacement, incarceration and/or killings of Palestinian people
- Note: Individuals with a history of service in the IDF but no current ties or support of the institution should not be held accountable for their required duty to serve
- Prioritize alternative contracts to companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights; such as, but not limited to, those that provide technical and/or logistical support to occupation
- Wherever possible, terminate contracts with companies that are found to profit from the occupation of Palestine
- Ensure that the BDS List is accessible to members by housing a link on SCSU's website
- Boycott Israeli and settlement goods from being sold by Student Union entities
- Lobby the University of Toronto to divest from investments and contracts that directly and indirectly fund the occupation of Palestine
- Lobby the University of Toronto to eliminate the selling of BDS affiliated goods and terminate contracts with companies that are found to profit from the occupation of Palestine

The Union Supports

- Partaking in the BDS movement and strategy
- Taking lead from Palestinians in Palestine and the diaspora, in learning and working towards solidarity in meaningful ways
- Working from an anti-oppressive and anti-colonial lens to recognize the history that has shaped our surroundings and ways we can establish equity

The Union Opposes

- Any form(s) of antisemitic remarks or rhetorics that seek to abuse the BDS movement as a method of discrimination against Jewish students
- The notion that Jewish students are inherently in violation of the BDS policy and in support of the state of Israel's oppression of Palestine
- The notion that the BDS movement is inherently antisemitic due to its criticism of the state of Israel